

# MONTHLY NOTES

OF THE

## Library Association

of the United Kingdom.

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THE next Monthly Meeting of the Association will be held at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, on Friday, January 6th, 1882, when a paper will be read by Mr. J. Ballinger, Librarian of the Doncaster Free Library, entitled "Jottings from my Notebook."

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It has been decided to print the Transactions of the last Annual Meeting in the same manner as those of former years.

Members who have not received copies of the Report of the London Conference and of the Oxford and Manchester Meetings, may obtain them, at the price of 14s. each volume, on application to the Chiswick Press. The notice as to these volumes on p. 24, is cancelled.

The arrangements under which MONTHLY NOTES have hitherto been edited and published will end with the publication of the present number. At their last meeting the Council resolved "That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. Brace for the care and conscientiousness displayed in his editing MONTHLY NOTES during the last two years."

The Council expected to have been able to announce the details of a new plan for continuing the publication on a larger scale. The Journal Committee has made its report, but the arrangements are not fully complete; and although it is hoped that a satisfactory result will be arrived at, the Council are not yet in a position to definitely announce the particulars.

The Report of the Committee, as agreed to by the Council, is as follows:—

### REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL ON THE QUESTION OF A JOURNAL FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

YOUR Committee, consisting of MESSRS. Walford, Nicholson, H. Stevens, Tedder, Briscoe, Garnett, Mullins, Whitaker, and the Secretaries, was appointed "to consider and report at an early

date, on the best mode of publishing the proceedings of the Monthly Meetings."

The first duty of the Committee was to make themselves fully acquainted with the various stages through which the question of a new Journal has passed since the idea was first taken into consideration by a sub-committee, appointed at a Monthly Meeting of the Association in April, 1879.

That Committee prepared a specimen of a proposed Monthly Circular for distribution at the Manchester Meeting (in 1879), and it was resolved at that Meeting "that this Association approves the idea of a Monthly or Quarterly Journal being issued, and that it be referred to the Council to carry the proposition into effect, if possible."

The Council carried out these instructions by arranging with Messrs. Trübner & Co. for the publication of an Eight-page Circular, which has been printed and sent post free to our members every month since January 1880, without any cost to the Association, except the Editor's honorarium and extra corrections, together about £25 per annum. Mr. Brace was appointed Editor, with an Editorial Committee.

About the middle of the year 1880, the *Library Journal*, which continued (as it still continues) to be our "Official Organ," announced that it would be discontinued from the end of that year. The position of the *Library Journal* towards the Association, it may be well to recall, was—as to its finance and management—one of complete independence. Neither our own nor the American Association had any pecuniary responsibility, and the control was entirely in the hands of the publisher. So far as our own Association is concerned, there has always been, of course, the serious disadvantage of a transatlantic publication. In view of this disadvantage, as well as of the uncertain future of the *Library Journal*, the Council reported to the Edinburgh Meeting of that year that "although the Council readily recognize the indebtedness of English librarians to the conductors of the *Library Journal* for the ability and public spirit with which it has been carried on so long, the whole question of the form and conduct of an official organ for this Association may be regarded as remaining open for full consideration at Edinburgh."

The challenge of the Council failed to evoke any definite expression of opinion, but Mr. Bowker was invited by a resolution of the Edinburgh Meeting to confer with the Council. The later history of the question may be quoted from the Report of the Council to the London Meeting of last September.

"Mr. Bowker accordingly gave the Council the benefit of his advice and experience. He also informed them that the publisher of the Journal had finally decided to alter its form and continue the publication. Under these circumstances, an offer which had been made to the Council by one of the Secretaries, to undertake the publication of an official organ in England, which should hold the same relation to the Association as the American Journal had held to the English and American Associations, was not accepted. But, although the matter has remained in abeyance, it must not be

considered as finally dropped. The Council are quite sensible of the disadvantage of having an official organ appearing on the other side of the Atlantic. They can only repeat, therefore, what they said in their report last year, that 'the whole question of the form and conduct of an official organ for this Association may be regarded as remaining open.'"

The proposal, though not accepted, had not been rejected by the Council, but remained under consideration, and as lately as the October Council Meeting of this year, a resolution was carried "that it is very desirable that an independent Library Journal be issued in this country, monthly."

For this the time may not yet be ripe, and under the circumstances the course which your Committee think it best to recommend for the coming year, is as follows:—

1. That *Monthly Notes* be increased to sixteen pages and wrapper; that it be brought out in better style; and that Messrs. Trübner & Co. be requested to continue its publication on the same terms as before, except that the Council agree to pay half the cost for printing (including corrections), provided that the annual sum to be contributed by the Association shall not exceed £25.

2. That an Honorary Editor (or Editors) be appointed, who shall exercise his discretion as to the contents, but who shall insert reports of all meetings of the Association, and such official information as may be sent for the purpose by the Secretaries.

3. That Advertisements be accepted for insertion on three pages of the cover, and if sufficiently numerous, on additional Advertising pages, and that a scale of charges and an arrangement for the division of the proceeds be settled with Messrs. Trübner.

4. That, in the arrangement with Messrs. Trübner, the copyright of the *Monthly Notes* be reserved to the Association.

The Committee recommend that their Report should be printed for the information of the Association.

#### DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING.

THE third Monthly Meeting of the fifth year of the Association was held at the London Institution, on Friday, December 2nd, at 8 p.m., Mr. R. HARRISON, Treasurer, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman announced that the Association had lost one of its members by the death of Mr. H. J. Adams, of Fleet Street.

The following gentlemen were announced as having joined the Association. By the TREASURER:—Sir James Ramsden, Member of Free Library Committee, Barrow-in-Furness. By the Rev. S. S. LEWIS, Local Secretary for Cambridge:—Rev. John Batteridge Pearson, D.D., Senior Fellow and Librarian of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. By Mr. C. WELCH, Secretary:—Mr. A. Mynott, Librarian of the Oxford and Cambridge Club.

The Secretaries reported that the following Committee Meetings had been held since the last Monthly Meeting:—Cataloguing Rules, Second Meeting, 18th November; Size Notation, Second Meeting,

18th November; Journal, First Meeting, 18th November, Second Meeting, 25th November.

There being no further business, the Meeting adjourned.

#### LOCAL SECRETARY.

Mr. J. Ballinger has been appointed by the Council to be Local Secretary for Doncaster.

#### LIBRARY NOTES.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—A Committee has been formed to establish a Free Library under the Acts.

DUBLIN—KING'S INNS LIBRARY.—The office of Librarian being vacant, Candidates are invited to send in their applications to the Under Treasurer of the King's Inns, on or before the 1st day of January, 1882. The salary is £200 per annum, with apartments and allowances, the precise particulars of which can be ascertained from the Under Treasurer.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES—FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Shortly after the notice as to this Library appeared in our July number (p. 60), the Library Committee had reason to alter their plans, and the applications received were put aside. They have now decided to return to their original plan, and have engaged temporary premises, which they hope to be in a position to open very early next year. The income from the rate will only amount to £320, but a donation has just been received of £500 for the purchase of books. The Reading Room will be opened from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. Applications, stating salary required, may be sent to the Rev. J. M. GORDON, 5, Ceres Villas, Kingston-on-Thames.

RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY.—A careful enumeration of the number of readers at each hour of the day, was made on the 12th ult. The number of persons passing into the Library was 1,013, or about one in twenty of the entire population of Richmond. At 8.15 p.m. there were sixty persons present, and at 8.55 there were forty-six. On the same day 553 volumes were taken out for home reading by 530 borrowers.

YORK.—The result of the poll on the Free Library question was declared on Thursday, 17th November; the number of votes against the adoption of the Free Libraries' Act was 4,939; in favour of its adoption, 3,044, being a majority of 1,895 against the adoption of the Act. The number of voting papers sent out was 10,887; number of papers returned, 9,209; there were 1,177 unsigned, 49 insufficiently filled up, and 452 not returned.

ERRATUM.—Page 96, line 26, for [CONIVGI] read [CONIVGIS].

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